



Dear Citizens,

Two of the components of Baltimore's Comprehensive [Master Plan](#) are LIVE and EARN, the goal for both is to set forth a strategy for how Baltimore can meet the employment and housing needs of city residents. As Mayor, I am responsible to move forward with effective strategies that will help us achieve the goals for Baltimoreans of today and the future.

Following up on a promise made in my State of the City address, this week I announced the appointment of a Blue Ribbon Task Force to Study Baltimore City's Tax and Fee Structure. The Task Force is made up of people who represent all of Baltimore's stakeholders – the business community, government, our faith community, non-profit organizations, and neighborhood organizations. They are responsible for developing simple, long-term solutions to the high property tax rate, and will present their findings to me by September 18, 2007.

By developing an effective solution to the high property tax rate in the city, we will remove a barrier to home ownership and finally reward people for making the decision to live here.

As we work to make Baltimore a more desirable place to live, I am also determined to improve the quality of the employment opportunities as well. This week I was pleased to announce that Legg Mason, a company with deep roots in Maryland, has committed to consolidate all of its Baltimore area operations in Baltimore City. Legg Mason agreed to lease up to 400,000 square feet in Baltimore's Inner Harbor East Area. The move will bring hundreds of employees back into the city.

This move will have a long-term positive economic impact on Baltimore by giving more people access to the Inner Harbor's shopping and entertainment. Additionally, Legg Mason's decision sends a message to businesses that Baltimore is a great place to do business.

I am proud to have worked with my colleagues and our citizens to address the challenges of achieving the goals of the Master Plan. I am also confident that in years to come, the sights of new construction cranes and moving vans carrying people into the city will let you know that we are succeeding.

I am interested in what you think about my agenda to make our city a more attractive place to LIVE and EARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor

Baltimore

To find more events in your community, visit Baltimore's Department of Recreation and Parks [February Events Calendar](#).

Who's Who in Black History Program

Friday, February 16, 2007

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Leith Walk Recreation Center
1235 Sherwood Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21239
(410) 396-6681

After-school program participants will perform African dances, recite poems, perform a short skit, and present a portrait of important African American figures. The event is FREE and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Trail Sweep

Saturday, February 17, 2007

10:00 am

Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park
Exact location TBA
Baltimore, MD 21223
(410) 396-0440

Trash won't pick up itself! So we'll collect what doesn't belong on the Trail. We'll focus on a particular section each week to clean. Gloves provided. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Great for school community service hours. Pre-registration required; please call at least 24 hours in advance. Please wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes or boots; second-use, outdoor clothing and bring drinking water (date is subject to change).

President's Day Ice Skating Session

Monday, February 19, 2007

12 Noon – 2:00 pm

Dominic "Mimi" DiPietro Family Skating Center
200 S. Linwood Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21224
(410) 396-9392

School's out! So spend this President's Day at "Mimi" DiPietro Family Skating Center. The rink is full-sized, equipped with a warm-up room, fireplace, concessions stand and skate shop. Admission is \$4; skate rental is \$2.

Heart Smart Day

Friday, February 23, 2007

9:00 am – 12 Noon

Waxter Center for Senior Citizens
1000 Cathedral St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 396-1324

Free health screenings will be available; Cholesterol/Blood Sugar/ Blood Pressure; Flu Shots; Talk with healthcare experts, one-on-one; Ask-A-Doctor/Brown Bag Medication Review/Talk with a Dietician; Free heart healthy breakfast and lunch provided; Receive helpful information, prizes, give-a-ways and much more. This event is FREE and open to seniors.

Black History Month Program

Friday, February 23, 2007

5:00 pm

Lakeland Recreation Center
2921 Stranden Road
Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 396-5016

Celebrate Black History Month with Lakeland's after-school program participants. They will perform dances and read poems in honor of famous African-Americans. The event is FREE and open to the public.

Saturday Stories at the Top

February 3 – February 24, 2007

Saturdays, 11:00 am

Observation Level
World Trade Center
401 East Pratt Street
27th Floor

This year, Top of the World Observation Level celebrates Black History Month in a unique way, with Saturday Stories at the Top. Each Saturday in February, storytellers teach children of the African and African American culture through creative, imaginative, and exciting tales, at 11a.m. The event is presented by Mayor Sheila Dixon and Top of the World Observation Level.

Admission Fee: \$5 for adults \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children. Advance group rates are available.

Phone : 410-837-8439

For registrations or questions please click [here](#)

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